

NEW NEWARK

**THE MAYOR'S COMMISSION
ON
GROUP
RELATIONS**

THE MAYOR'S COMMISSION ON GROUP RELATIONS

FOREWORD

In our master plan for a *New Newark*, all aspects of the City's welfare and growth are of vital importance. But probably the greatest single consideration is the health, safety, and peace of the people who make up our diversified metropolis.

The objective of this City's policy is that every resource and facility of all departments and agencies be utilized to give equal services to all persons, regardless of race, religion or national origin.

It is the function of the Mayor's Commission on Group Relations to assist all municipal departments in the attainment of this objective.

The job cannot be fully accomplished however, without the help of all residents working constructively toward the goal of understanding and harmony among all the citizens and neighborhoods of this city.

Leo P. Carlin

Leo P. Carlin, Mayor
City of Newark





WHY WAS THE COMMISSION CREATED?

The Mayor's Commission on Group Relations was created by the Newark Fair Practices Ordinance of 1952. This ordinance was the result of two years' work and study by the Civil Rights Commission, an appointed, voluntary group of citizens dedicated to the job of improving intergroup relations in the City of Newark. The overall effectiveness of this group was limited since it functioned without a professional staff. The recommendation for a full-time human relations specialist and assistant was presented to the City Fathers by the Civil Rights Commission.

This suggestion then led to the Fair Practices Ordinance, which was written by David M. Litwin, then chairman of the Civil Rights Commission and later chairman of the first Mayor's Commission on Group Relations.

The Declaration of Policy in the ordinance states in part . . . "this local law is enacted to provide an instrumentality through which the City of Newark may officially encourage and bring about mutual understanding and respect for all groups in the City, eliminate prejudice, intolerance, bigotry, discrimination and disorder; and help give effect to the guarantee of equal rights for all as assured by the Constitution and laws of the State."

WHAT IS THE MAYOR'S COMMISSION ON GROUP RELATIONS?



The Mayor's Commission on Group Relations is an agency in the framework of the office of Mayor, composed of 15 representative citizens serving without compensation and appointed by the Mayor. The Commissioners serve designated terms of 1 to 5 years.

The professional staff consists of an executive director, an assistant and two clerk-stenographers.

WHAT DOES THE MAYOR'S COMMISSION ON GROUP RELATIONS DO?

The Mayor's Commission on Group Relations conducts a two-fold program of education and action in support of city policy and state laws prohibiting prejudice and discrimination in every area of community life. This approach has included many special projects as well as the day-to-day tasks which are accomplished while working toward total equality in the Newark community. Among projects which have been sponsored and conducted by the Commission are:

FAIR EMPLOYMENT PRACTICE WEEK: observed during annual Brotherhood Week to highlight the disparities which still exist between the democratic ideal and our present practices.

NEIGHBORHOOD CONFERENCES Special meetings designed to give the community leaders and the public an opportunity to report the "good and bad" of their neighborhoods and to submit recommendations to the Commission concerning neighborhood problems.

Section IV of the Ordinance states:

The functions of the Commission shall be to foster mutual understanding and respect among all racial, religious and ethnic groups in the City of Newark:

To discourage and prevent

discriminatory practices against any group or its members;

To cooperate with Federal,

State and Municipal agencies, and non-governmental agencies in reducing prejudice; and

To make investigations and studies

in any field of human relationships which will aid in maintaining the peace and harmony in Newark.

HUMAN RELATIONS WORKSHOPS Special 10-week courses conducted at Adult Schools, the YM-YWCA or neighborhood centers. These weekly sessions are designed to equip interested persons with the basic knowledge and skills of human relations and to train these citizens to become community leaders.

SCHOLARSHIPS TO WORKSHOPS Financial aid is given to qualified City employees and Newark residents to attend the annual summer workshops in human relations conducted at Rutgers University. The Commission also assists in recruiting for the Encampment for Citizenship, a summer workshop designed for young adults, 18-23.

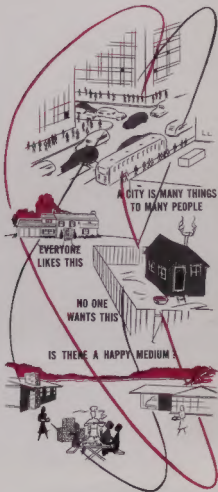
HUMAN RELATIONS FOR POLICE RECRUITS The Commission Staff conducts a four hour discussion in human relations for police recruits undergoing training at the Newark Police Academy. The men are given basic information on the New Jersey Law Against Discrimination, issues in the field of civil rights and human relations which relate to their day-to-day job as police officers.

SPECIAL CELEBRATIONS As a coordinating agency the Mayor's Commission on Group Relations has enlisted the cooperation and support of the various racial, religious and ethnic groups; community, civic, labor and business organizations; fraternal societies; veterans' organizations and other groups in many city celebrations and observances. Some of these are: the United Nations Day programs; Brotherhood Week observances; open, public commission meetings and special programs on civil rights and human rights.



People of many backgrounds, races and religions live and work together to build the New Newark.

WHAT IS THE COMMUNITY SURVEY?



The Mayor's Commission on Group Relations is also empowered by Ordinance to "issue such publications and such reports of investigations and research as in its judgment will tend to minimize or eliminate prejudice, intolerance, bigotry, discrimination, breach of peace or disorder or tend to promote good-will" (Section V, par. 5). Toward this end the Commission is presently conducting a full-scale, professional community survey of changing neighborhoods and population trends in the City of Newark. This survey was made possible by an appropriation from Mayor Leo P. Carlin and the City Council in the amount of \$33,500 allocated for use in 1957-1958.

PRELIMINARY RESEARCH

Prior to its decision to study changing neighborhoods, the Commission contracted Dr. Chester Rapkin of the University of Pennsylvania who conducted a preliminary research program to identify the major group relations problems and the areas of greatest concern in Newark. This study was completed in July, 1957 and published in a report entitled, "Group Relations in Newark—1957." After intensive evaluation of this report the Commission decided to concentrate on changing neighborhoods.

Five professional research organizations submitted formal proposals on their approach and plans for the study. Market Planning Corporation of New York City was selected to do the full-scale survey. The job which began late in 1957 will be completed in January, 1959.

This research program will supply the Mayor's Commission on Group Relations with information which it will use in charting its course for the future well-being of the citizens of Newark.

HOW

CAN YOU HELP YOUR COMMUNITY?



WE OFFER PROGRAMS FOR YOUR ORGANIZATION

The Commission's educational work means rendering continuing service to the many Newark organizations that want to learn more about human relations in the community. This service consists of:

- speeches and assembly programs
- leading group discussions
- serving as planning consultants
- conducting film forums.

The Commission has been expanding during each year of operation. In the years 1956-1957, a total of 308 groups were served with an approximate audience of 30,000 persons.

- Know and understand the New Jersey Law Against Discrimination and the protection it affords you. Help others to learn about and utilize the law.

Inform the Mayor's Commission on Group Relations of all incidents involving intergroup tensions or any conditions which are likely to create such tensions.

Take advantage of the program services offered by the Commission and acquaint your neighborhood with the goals and work of all human relations agencies in the City of Newark.

Join and cooperate with those organizations in your neighborhood which are following a program of community improvement toward better interpersonal and intergroup relations.

The topics most frequently discussed were:

- "America's Role in International Human Relations";
- "Intergroup Relations in Newark, 1958-59";
- "What Is the Mayor's Commission on Group Relations?";
- "Panel Discussion on Rutgers Workshop in Human Relations";
- "Film Forum on the Psychology of Prejudice";
- "The Unfinished Business of American Democracy";
- "Private Housing and Changing Neighborhoods."

In addition to these areas of specialization, the Staff sets up courses in Leadership Development, the Function of Community Organizations and the Training of Discussion Leaders.

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LEO P. CARLIN

Mayor

COMMISSIONERS

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MRS. ANNA D. SOSNICKY

SAMUEL WEITZMAN

DANIEL S. ANTHONY

Executive Director

WALTER D. CHAMBERS

Assistant Director

Help to improve our democracy in your day-to-day contacts with people by the example you set in your attitudes and behavior. Good Human Relations is good religious practice: Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

MAYOR'S COMMISSION ON GROUP RELATIONS
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